

## NEW YORK HERALD.

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,  
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Volume XXXIX.....No. 46

## AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.  
Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets—  
LEATH'S STOCKING, at 8 P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.WOODS MUSEUM.  
Broadway, corner Third and Houston streets—  
A QUIET FAMILY, at 8 P. M.; at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Daniel Boone, at 8  
P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.  
Twenty-third street and Broadway—POLLY, at 8 P.  
M.; at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Hartman, Miss Ada Dyan.GRAND OPERA HOUSE.  
Eighty-fourth street and Broadway—HUMPHY  
DUMPHY AT SCHOOL, and VARIETY ENTERTAIN-  
MENT, begins at 8 P. M.; at 10:30 P. M. Mr. G. L.  
Fox.THEATRE COMIQUE.  
No. 514 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8  
P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.BOOTH'S THEATRE.  
Sixth avenue and Twenty-third street—ELENE, at 7:45  
P. M.; at 10:30 P. M. Mrs. J. R. Booth.WALLACK'S THEATRE.  
Broadway and Thirtieth street—MONEY, at 8 P. M.;  
at 10:30 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack, Miss Jeffery  
Lewis.OLYMPIC THEATRE.  
Broadway, between Houston and Houston streets—  
VAUDEVILLE and NOVELTY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8  
P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE.  
opposite City Hall, Brooklyn—WHITE SWAN, at 8 P.  
M.; at 10:30 P. M.MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.  
Washington street, Brooklyn—AMY ROBERTS, at 8 P.  
M.; at 10:30 P. M. Mrs. Conway.BOWERY THEATRE.  
Bowery—MARKED FOR LIFE, at 8 P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.METROPOLITAN THEATRE.  
No. 95 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at  
7:45 P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.TONY PASTORI'S OPERA HOUSE.  
No. 201 Bowery—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8 P.  
M.; at 10:30 P. M.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.  
Twenty-third street and Broadway—CINDER-  
ELLA IN BLACK, NEGRO MINSTRELS, &c., at 8 P.  
M.; at 10:30 P. M.STEINWAY HALL.  
Fourteenth street—CONCERT of Caroline Richings  
Bernard's Musical Union, at 8 P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.COLOSSEUM.  
Broadway, corner of Third and Houston streets—PARIS BY  
NIGHT, at 8 P. M.; at 10:30 P. M.; same at 7 P. M.;  
at 10:30 P. M.

## QUADRUPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, Feb. 15, 1874.

## THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the  
Herald.GREAT FIRE IN LONDON! BURNING OF THE  
PANTHEON—IMPORTANT GENERAL  
NEWS—NINTH PAGE.THE PEOPLE OF SPAIN TO DECIDE UPON THE  
FUTURE FORM OF GOVERNMENT—JOLLA-  
REARS THE HAVANA MOB—NINTH  
PAGE.THE ENGLISH ANTI-PAPACY MOVEMENT! BIS-  
MARCK AND HIS ROYAL MASTER EULO-  
GIZED IN ST. JAMES' HALL—FIFTH PAGE.PROFESSOR PROCTOR ACKNOWLEDGES THAT  
SOLAR EVOLUTION IS NEITHER DEMON-  
STRATED NOR DEMONSTRABLE—SEVENTH  
PAGE.DISSECTING THE SIAMSE CURIOSITIES! THE  
LIGATURE SEVERED—MR. CHARLES  
KINGSLEY—FIFTH PAGE.SNAIL-LIKE TRAVEL THROUGH THE METROPOLIS!  
THE MISERABLE MEANS FOR THE  
TRANSPORTATION OF OUR CITIZENS UP  
AND DOWN TOWN! HOW TO BETTER  
THEM! RAPID TRANSIT A VITAL DE-  
MAND—FIFTH PAGE.BEFORE THE DRILL! THE AMERICAN FLEET  
IN THE WEST INDIES PREPARING FOR  
THE GRAND REVIEW—FIFTH PAGE.THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AT ORANGE, N. J.,  
SOLD BY THE SHERIFF! HOW THE DEBT  
WAS INCURRED—FIFTH PAGE.SIMMONS' DEFENCE! THE KILLING OF NICHOLAS  
W. DURYEA SAID TO HAVE BEEN  
JUSTIFIABLE—TENTH PAGE.MISERIES TO MOVE A HEART OF STONE! THE  
PLAIN, UNVARISHED TALES OF THE  
WOMEN AMONG THE DESTITUTE! MORE  
SOUP HOUSES! THE BLESSED WORK OF  
RELIEF STILL CONTINUED—SIXTH PAGE.FENDING OFF THE NORTON BLAST! THE DE-  
FENCE OF THE TENTH NATIONAL BANK—  
TENTH PAGE.THE REFORMED EPISCOPALIANS GAINING  
STRENGTH! RELIGIOUS NEWS AND  
CHURCH SERVICES TO-DAY—JEWISH PUB-  
LIC WORSHIP—SEVENTH PAGE.LENTEN HISTORY! HOW THE FORTY DAYS'  
PENITENCE AND EASTER WERE ESTAB-  
LISHED! THE CONTENTIONS OF EARLY  
CHRISTIANS! CIRCULAR OF ARCHBISHOP  
MCCLOSKEY—SEVENTH PAGE.A LUCID REVIEW OF THE PERILOUS FINAN-  
CIAL STATUS! CHANGES IN THE VA-  
RIOUS MARKETS! EXPORTS AND IM-  
PORTS! THE BANKS' REPORT—ELEVENTH  
PAGE.STORMS ON THE ATLANTIC.—By reference to  
our ship news column it will be seen that  
storms have prevailed on the Atlantic for some  
days. The City of Antwerp experienced very  
heavy weather and lost her second officer on  
the voyage. The gales have extended as far  
as Cape Hatteras, and heavy weather is re-  
ported from Nova Scotia.THE SIOUX INDIANS have at length so ex-  
asperated the officials of the Interior Depart-  
ment, who are generally so apathetic toward  
the "reds," that the War Department has re-  
ceived permission to punish them for the re-  
cent murder of Robinson, Coleman and Apple-  
ton. Our despatches this morning show how  
Sherman and Sheridan are going to work.THE BOWERY BRANCH of the Young Men's  
Christian Association are issuing twenty thou-  
sand meal tickets, for bread and soup or  
coffee, which they sell at the rate of ten for  
one dollar.Professor Proctor's Second Letter to  
the Herald—His Theory of Evolu-  
tion Not Demonstrable.We publish to-day another letter from Pro-  
fessor Proctor, which the pressure on our  
columns has, we regret, slightly delayed. We  
trust the eminent astronomer has not misun-  
derstood the spirit and scope of our remarks  
upon his hypothesis, and that he will appre-  
ciate the deep interest we have manifested in  
it by the discussion of his subject. "The  
ability of fearlessly doubting is not the mean-  
est attribute of genuine philosophy," said an  
eminent French savant, and we are sure Pro-  
fessor Proctor is too profound and too ripe a  
scientist to think hard of our temerity in  
questioning some of his conclusions.In his letter of the 28th ult., the distin-  
guished lecturer wrote of Laplace's theory and  
his own: "Both theories are based on evi-  
dence indicating, I think we may say demon-  
strating (italics ours) the evolution of the  
solar system." He also said:—"Talking our  
earth, we know that millions of years have  
passed since she began to be peopled." It  
was principally against such positive views  
and the seeming claim of certainty that we  
dissent, showing, as we did, that such  
strong expressions far outstripped the cautious  
language of the great astronomers of the past  
and present. Now Professor Proctor writes:—"I  
have not at any time, spoken of  
my theory of the evolution of the  
solar system as demonstrated," and, again, "I  
have nowhere spoken of it as demonstrated or  
demonstrable," and "I only claim for my  
theory it is more probable" (than that of La-  
place.) We are sure that the learned Pro-  
fessor will do us the justice to acknowledge  
the irreconcilability in the tone of the two  
letters. But we are perfectly satisfied with  
his last statement, that his theory is "more  
probable" than that of Laplace. Only, we  
would ask him to remember that, when the  
bold author of the "Système du Monde" put  
forth the hypothesis in question, he avowedly  
did so "with diffidence." When Professor  
Proctor, who stands in the foreground of  
modern astronomy, confesses, as he now  
does, that the evolution hypothesis is, as yet,  
neither "demonstrated" nor "demonstrable,"  
we most cordially agree to his confession, and  
would congratulate him on that modesty of  
all solid science which prompts the acknowl-  
edgment. But henceforth, now that one of the  
most advanced of living scientists so candidly  
disavows even the "demonstrability" of evolu-  
tion, let those to whom it has ever been such a  
bugbear breathe freely, and cease to fight  
the grim shadow. Here, then, but for one or  
two interesting points upon which Professor  
Proctor catches us, we might properly  
leave the subject.A newspaper is not, perhaps, the best place  
for discussing the many phases of solar as-  
tronomy; but it is not beyond its sphere to  
indicate the methods of scientific research  
which most deeply concern mankind. Travel-  
lers look how, in certain conditions of the  
air, a spectator standing on the shore at Reggio  
and looking out upon the Straits of Messina  
sees rising before him a spectral city, with its  
domes and turrets, and even describes the mov-  
ing forms of animated life. The illusion is so  
complete that he thinks he has seen some  
magical hand suddenly erect the illusory  
structure on the waters before him. The history  
of science is replete with instances in  
which just such unreal and imaginary pheno-  
mena have deceived the most eminent philo-  
sophers, and they have reasoned from them  
as if they had been the most determined of re-  
alities. Nowhere more than in the domain of  
stellar research has the process of uncon-  
sciously creating and peopling new worlds  
been more seductive and more fatal. The  
spectral forms which retreat before the lens  
of severe analysis have ever thronged the vast  
interplanetary straits, and when speculation,  
like Hamlet, cries out, "Methinks I see my  
father," it cannot be complained if, with  
Horatio, we demand, "Where, my lord?"In his essays Professor Proctor himself  
truly tells us that the elder Herschel's whole  
treatment of the nebular and sidereal systems  
indicated that the views he advanced "were  
intended, for the most part, rather as sugges-  
tions than as theories." This is just what we  
claimed in our review of the Professor's lec-  
tures that astronomy ought now to be content  
to do. When men began to interrogate nature,  
as the great Humboldt argued, the philosophy  
of nature cast aside the poetic garb, and  
"now weighs the value of observations and  
substitutes induction and reasoning for con-  
jecture and assumption." "Hypotheses I do  
not frame," was a motto which the immortal  
Newton bequeathed to the world, and must  
forever stand as a warning to science—a motto,  
too, which has left its impress on such minds  
as Tyndall, who asserts:—"So far from hav-  
ing a theory of the universe, I have not even  
a theory of magnetism."When we come to that misty, interstellar  
sphere of spectroscopic inquiry, in which  
Professor Proctor delights to dwell, the words  
of Newton have a still deeper emphasis. The  
ever-changing want of uniformity of the  
earth's atmosphere, through which the stellar  
light comes to us, and the numerous fine lines  
of stellar spectra have greatly retarded such  
investigations. Nay, as has often been  
pointed out, many of the lines are quenched  
in cosmical space before they reach our  
planet—a fact strongly suggested and sup-  
ported by Struve and other astronomers before  
the spectrum analysis was applied, and since  
fully confirmed by that analysis itself. Only  
a few weeks ago our own eminent spectro-  
scopist, Dr. Draper, proved that "the exact  
composition of even a part of the spectrum  
of a metal will not be known until we  
have obtained photographs of it on a large  
scale;" for the human eye is too weak to  
discern the fine lines. And we know that  
spectrum photography is, as yet, but just be-  
ginning its work under Dr. Draper's able  
investigations. So far as reliable results  
can be had we know that comets have two  
spectra, the one proper to them and the  
other derived from solar illumination. Until  
some sure method has been devised for  
separating the double spectra, and sifting out  
that derived from the sun's rays, revelations  
of the spectroscopic, despite its boasted powers,  
must be more or less speculative and the  
results vitiated.It is true, as Professor Proctor says, that we  
overlooked, in our necessarily hasty comment  
on his first letter, that Huggins' third comet  
and Encke's comet gave a carbon spectrum.  
But the considerations just mentioned strip  
that oversight of any significance in thepresent discussion. The homogeneity of cos-  
mical and terrestrial matter—upon which  
Professor Proctor's hypothesis rests—is, with  
a few exceptions, wholly unestablished. Pro-  
fessor Lockyer, who has no superior as a  
spectroscopist, has proved that the sun's  
spectrum gives no compounds from its incan-  
descent surface, while the spectra of the stars  
do give them—a fact which appears to com-  
pletely upset the theory in question. So that,  
with all the results now in hand, the German  
astronomer, Vogel, has just declared that the  
conclusions drawn from them are of a value  
"greatly overestimated."We have only space for a word with regard  
to Professor Proctor's challenge as to whether  
inductive science has ever led to a single dis-  
covery. As the now living successor of Far-  
aday has well said:—"There has been a vast  
deal of idle discussion of the respective merits  
of induction and deduction, while every true  
philosopher has sought the marriage of both."  
We have said nothing whatever against de-  
duction, but against unchastened speculation.  
But we unhesitatingly answer the challenge in  
the affirmative. Not to prolong this we give  
him as among the triumphs of induction the  
discoveries of the metals thallium, rubidium  
and calcium. If we know what induction means  
Joule's discovery of the law of conservation  
is another. As to Newton's discovery of grav-  
itation, we have no less an authority than Sir  
John Herschel for believing that it was an in-  
ductive study of the comet of 1680 which  
made that law a discovery which before had  
been only a rational dream. Gravitation was  
Kepler's theory, but Newton's discovery.  
We have said so much because the occasion  
demanded; for, as a countryman of Pro-  
fessor Proctor has so strikingly suggested in a  
recent issue of the *British Quarterly*, we need  
to know that science is only a provisional  
reading of the facts of nature; that the in-  
terpretation of these facts differs in every age,  
changing with the changing time, and that  
even since the beginning of this century it  
has had three phases—continuity, convulsion  
and evolution—all scientific shibboleths, to  
pronounce which aught has been stoutly de-  
clared necessary to our scientific salvation.

## Fair Play for a Model Charity.

Superintendent Barnard, of the Five Points  
House of Industry, wants us to give him fair  
play. He thinks the treasurer, based on the  
annual report of the treasurer of the institu-  
tion for 1872, that it cost \$26,104 to expend  
\$14,406 on the poor, "is liable to convey a  
wrong impression;" and he says, "if the  
amount paid for fuel, lights and transporta-  
tion be reckoned as a part of the sum spent  
for the poor why not the cost of repairs, fur-  
niture and incidental house expenses?" Well,  
although "furniture" may include comfortable  
chairs and new desks for the officers, and  
although "incidentals" may embrace  
lunches and their usual adjuncts, we give the  
institution the full benefit of the Superintendent's  
claim, and we then find the treasurer's  
exhibit as follows:—

EXPENDED ON THE POOR.	
Provisions.....	\$12,088
Fuel and lights.....	1,767
Clothing.....	75
Medicine and hospital.....	75
Outdoor poor and beneficiaries.....	318
Transportation.....	1,022
Repairs.....	1,529
Furniture.....	744
Incidental.....	1,847
Total.....	\$18,896
Cost of expending the above sum on the poor:—	
Salaries.....	\$7,276
School and teachers' salaries.....	2,799
Printing a paper called the <i>Record</i> .....	1,314
Stationery, &c.....	529
Interest, insurances, taxes and new building	9,440
Total.....	\$21,024

Thus, on the most liberal calculation, for  
every one dollar spent on the poor the institu-  
tion and its officers swallowed up one dol-  
lar and sixteen cents. Now that we have  
given "fair play" to the institution will the  
institution give fair play to the poor?LENT.—Lent casts its shadow before it and  
will soon be here. It is a time of solemn fasts  
and vigils, of sackcloth and ashes—a time of  
tender mourning, wherein the sins of the past  
may be repented of, and holy resolutions  
formed for the future. We are not disposed  
to smile at the spirit which leads a man to  
withdraw himself from the world at such an  
hour as this to commune with his own heart,  
to forego associations which lead through the  
maze of worldly pleasure and to fix his eye  
upon the heavenly vision. Elsewhere will be  
found a description of the solemnities and  
observances of the season—solemnities and  
observances which give a solemn tone to about  
a month and a half of human life, and touch  
town and country alike with a grace not of  
the earth.TERPSICHOEAN CHARITY.—The season has  
been a Terpsichorean triumph, to judge from  
the large list of balls which we find on the  
record and from the general success attend-  
ing the same. As the Lenten season is just at  
hand, we may consider the reign of the God-  
dess of Dancing at an end. She has materi-  
ally added to her list of admirers, and gained  
undoubted patronage by her earnest  
and successful efforts in the cause of sweet  
Charity. A great deal of privation and suffer-  
ing has been averted by the prompt action  
of ball committees this winter. The last  
great "charity" ball, which occupies the first  
position among entertainments of this de-  
scription, brought hope and relief to hundreds  
of poor families. The splendor of such en-  
tertainments has not been dimmed by the  
financial troubles which have exercised the  
public mind so long, and ladies' toilets were  
never more attractive nor expensive.SUPERINTENDENT BARNARD is "hardly  
prepared to deny" that there is a great deal of  
suffering—much more than usual—in the city  
just now. But he insists that relief should  
come only through "established charitable in-  
stitutions." To go outside these institutions,  
he says, is unwise, "for the reason that you  
will help a class which is not deserving of it."  
Not only that; you will help a class  
which, as "experts" in charity, deserves good  
pay and large perquisites.THE STREET CLEANING INVESTIGATION com-  
menced yesterday before the Legislative com-  
mittee in this city. It will probably end in  
whitewashing the Street Cleaning Bureau and  
leaving the streets as filthy as ever.LIBERAL CONTRIBUTIONS continue to be made  
to the St. John's Guild for the relief of the  
downtown poor. Clothing and groceries are  
solicited to be sent to St. John's chapel,  
Varick street.

## What the Preachers Will Talk About.

Topical preaching is a peculiarity of the  
American pulpit, and whether ministers  
advertise their subjects or not they almost in-  
variably have subjects on which they discourse  
before their congregations. We have looked  
with some interest to know how the pulpit  
would receive and treat the woman's raid  
against rum in Ohio and elsewhere, but there  
has been an ominous silence thereon. The  
Rev. Dr. Steel, than whom no man in the  
pulpit of this city is more capable to treat  
this subject, will handle it in his church this  
morning. Another topic of constantly in-  
creasing interest to a large class of persons, not  
only here, but throughout the land—namely,  
compulsory education—will be discussed by  
Dr. Wild, of Brooklyn. The Doctor has some  
experience as an educator, and is also a  
deep thinker, so that his opinions or sugges-  
tions should carry great weight with them.  
They will, doubtless, be read and heard with  
interest. We hardly know what can be  
said now on so hoary a topic  
as Esau and his mess of pottage,  
but Rev. Mr. Sweetser, we dare say, will bring  
out some new thought from it. Perhaps he  
will show that Esau did not make such a bad  
bargain after all. But as it is a discourse for  
young people, most likely it will be an argu-  
ment and a plea against the waste of youthful  
life and the neglect of their spiritual birth-  
right. Some one has mapped out for himself a  
subject of great sweep and one that has occu-  
pied the attention of the Christian world from  
the earliest times to the present—namely, the  
Resurrection of the Dead and the Translation  
of the Living. A minister can do little more  
than hastily group together a few of the more  
important arguments for and against the  
truths here indicated in one discourse. To a  
Universalist there is probably but one answer  
to the query, Will He cast off forever? which  
Mr. Pullman proposes to ask and answer to-  
day. The answer, of course, will be an em-  
phatic No! Rev. Thomas Veitch will have a  
word to say on temperance, and other pastors,  
no doubt, will treat the live topics of the day  
without wholly neglecting the greatest of all  
pulpit themes—the salvation of human souls  
through the Gospel and the atonement of Christ.SEASONABLE DONATIONS.—It will be seen  
from our news columns this morning how  
nobly the people of this city are responding  
to the call for the relief of the suffering poor.  
In addition to the larger donations of the  
wealthier classes, smaller donations in the  
shape of coal, food and clothing are daily be-  
ing received at the headquarters of our various  
charitable institutions. This is as it should  
be. The penny which the poor man cast into  
the treasury received the commendation of the  
Master. According to our means it is the  
duty of all to give. The smaller donations are  
as welcome as the large, and if every one  
does his duty the wants of the suffering poor  
will be abundantly supplied. Let it not be  
forgotten that charity, like mercy, is twice  
blessed. "It bleareth him that gives and him  
that takes."THE DEY STREET SOUT HOUSE has in three  
days given fifteen hundred people comfortable  
meals. What a terrible demoralization must  
have taken place among the downtown poor!WHOM WILL IT BENEFIT?—A bill in the  
State Legislature proposes to exempt from  
taxation all the real and personal property of  
any woman who now is or may hereafter be-  
come a resident of this State. It is all very  
well to help the ladies, even if they are rich;  
but would not such a law induce the male por-  
tion of our population to make over their real  
and personal estates to their wives and  
daughters, and thus take all property out of  
the reach of taxation?THE ICE CROP.—The ice companies do not  
make a very promising report of their progress  
up to the present time. Only about one-  
third of an average crop has been harvested,  
and although the companies hope for more  
frost and an opportunity to fill their houses  
before the winter closes, the prospect for con-  
sumers is not promising. There is some con-  
solation in the information that the ice  
already gathered is unusually pure and in  
excellent condition. In this respect it will  
differ from the ice that was served to con-  
sumers by the New York companies last  
summer.THE HOWARD RELIEF REPORTS from January  
13 to February 13, meals furnished, 22,584;  
lodgings, 9,087; families relieved outside, 376.  
This is good work for thirty-one days.THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY and  
THE POLARIS CREW.—The American Geograph-  
ical Society will give a reception to the surviv-  
ing officers and crew of the *Polaris* to-morrow  
evening at the large hall of the Cooper Insti-  
tute. This is to be one of the most important  
gatherings of the kind ever held in New York,  
and we trust that able geographers, like Presi-  
dent Charles P. Daly, and renowned explorers,  
like Dr. Hayes and Mr. Bradford, will render  
this Arctic night in our city a reproduction of  
"The Land of Desolation." The untimely death  
of Captain Hall prevented any very thorough  
examination of the extraordinary cruise of the  
*Polaris* until the subject was taken in hand  
by the Geographical Society, by which we are  
sure it will be treated with judicial fairness.  
We are assured that a great deal that is new  
concerning the expedition will be disclosed at  
the reception to-morrow night.THE LADIES of the Church of the Disciples,  
on Forty-fifth street and Madison avenue,  
have organized a Helping Hand Association and  
are making clothing of all kinds for the poor.THE BRITISH ELECTIONS.—The conservatives  
have been successful, up to the date of the  
latest news, in maintaining their majority. Ac-  
cording to one of the leading London papers  
the resignation of Mr. Gladstone may be looked  
for on Monday or Tuesday next. Rumor has  
it that on the occasion of his retirement from  
office he will be raised to the peerage. Mr.  
Gladstone in the House of Lords will be prac-  
tically lost to his party. If there is any truth  
in the rumor it would seem to imply that the  
Premier really means to retire altogether from  
public life.CHURCH COLLECTIONS.—It is to be hoped  
that the churches generally will make good  
returns from their collections to-day in aid of  
the suffering poor. The work is one in which  
they can heartily join, and not one of them  
should fail to do its best to swell the relief  
fund, of which the destitute stand so much in  
need.

## Current Topics of the Religious Press.

The *Christian Advocate* enters its strongest  
protest against the whole musical arrange-  
ments of the churches, and with equally forc-  
ible language advocates congregational sing-  
ing. It objects—and we most heartily endorse  
its objection—to the number and character of  
the Sunday school hymn books with which  
the market is flooded. What real gems they  
contain, it says, are taken from older collec-  
tions, with here and there a specimen not  
positively objectionable, and enjoying a tem-  
porary popularity quite above its merits, while  
the great mass is simply worthless, and much  
of it scarcely better than execrable. Why  
could not two or three or more churches in a  
neighborhood, of the same or differing denom-  
inations employ a competent musical in-  
structor to give lessons to the people during  
one or two nights in the week, and thus en-  
courage congregational singing, and eventually  
do away altogether and forever with the ob-  
jectionable features in our church musical  
arrangements?The *Christian Union* recites the progress of  
the women's temperance crusade in Ohio, and  
comments thereon favorably, yet with evi-  
dent fear that "the permanent effects will not  
be such as to justify measures so extraordi-  
nary and so at war with the principles, in-  
stances and habits that characterize our Amer-  
ican civilization."The *Examiner* and *Chronicle* takes issue with  
a Michigan "Moderator" on the similarity of  
installation and ordination, which the latter  
contends are one ordinance. It also comments  
on the Unitarian Bishop, Jules Ferrette, and  
thinks that the savor of Episcopal grace is  
getting pretty impartially diffused.The *Independent* reviews the Ohio women's  
war on the rum-sellers. While it believes in  
moral suasion as the only means of effecting a  
radical cure of this evil, it thinks this should  
come after the law has been tried. Such a  
crusade as the women of Ohio are now carry-  
ing on, and as the women of Massachusetts  
proposes to inaugurate, may do for inland  
towns and villages, but the *Independent*  
thinks, will not work well in New York,  
Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago or any  
of the large cities of the nation.  
There are too many establishments here to  
be attacked simultaneously, and a counter  
mob of loose women could be easily secured,  
who would, the editor thinks, be too much for  
their reputable sisters. But the law should  
first have its perfect work. If it fails, then let  
the women try their plan. It is not the high-  
est style of piety to pray down liquor selling  
unless we have first done all we can with  
the law.The *Evangelist* sees a strong likeness  
between the movement which separates the  
Old Catholics from the Church of Rome and  
the Reformed Episcopalians from the Epis-  
copal Church of the United States. The  
*Evangelist* also touches on church discipline  
and church quarrels, in which it advocates  
mild treatment toward offending and weak  
brethren.The *Catholic Review* quotes extracts from  
Herr Reichensperger's speech in the Prussian  
Parliament, and comments thereon, in proof  
that Prussian Catholics had been always  
loyal to the State until the State placed itself  
in direct antagonism to the Church. The  
*Review* continues its controversy with the  
*Nation* and exposes the absurd blunders of  
press despatches respecting the health or death  
of Cardinal Antonelli.The *Tablet* rejoices in the prospect of a  
Catholic university being established in Eng-  
land and in the educational movements on  
the Continent of Europe. The *Tablet* is also  
very naturally indignant at the arrest and im-  
prisonment of Archbishop Ledochowski, of  
Posen, by the German government for the  
simple act of consecrating priests without  
consulting that government. It thinks that  
the German government cannot afford to let  
this prelate out of prison again lest itself ap-  
pear ridiculous in the eyes of the world. It  
must keep him there or do worse. The *Tablet*  
also reviews the Rev. D. H. Miller's late anti-  
Catholic sermon (published in the *Herald*),  
and shows the falsity of some of his argu-  
ments and deductions. The *Catholic Mirror*,  
of Baltimore, comments vigorously on the  
arrest of the Archbishop of Posen, who, it  
says, has been torn from the altar where he  
ministered and from the sanctuary where he  
prayed. It classifies him with the confessors  
and martyrs.The *Methodist* sketches briefly the literary  
life of Strauss, just deceased, and, after ac-  
cording to him the full merit which was his  
due, and to whom, it says, we owe the great  
attention which since 1845 has been given to  
the life of Christ, it points out the falsity or  
feebleness of some of his arguments, illustra-  
tions and propositions in the working up of  
his theory of Christ. The weakest point in  
all Strauss' system of thinking was, the  
*Methodist* declares, that after having destroyed,  
as he supposed, the Gospel history, he tried  
to hold the life of Jesus as ideally true. What  
he meant by this it is impossible to tell. The  
*Methodist*, discussing the contest between Bis-  
marck and the Pope, justifies certain appar-  
ently hard measures against the latter by  
declaring that the Roman Catholic Church  
has proved an element of political mischief  
and a stirrer up of disloyalty in every country  
in which it has obtained a foothold.The *Jewish Times* and the *Hebrew Leader* both  
have editorials on Strauss complimentary to  
that great thinker and acknowledging his  
affinity with Judaism and his service rendered  
to true theological criticism. The *Jewish*  
*Messenger* deals with a subject more practical,  
because more vital—namely, the increasing  
neglect of the synagogue by young Israelites.  
Some remedy must be applied at once.Church and State defines its position as be-  
tween the Protestant Episcopal Church and  
the reform movement. It is non-committal,  
but inclined toward the latter.TROUBLES IN CUBA.—Considerable uneasiness  
prevails in Havana, caused by the resolution of  
the government to draft a portion of the vol-  
unteers for active duty. The Captain General  
feels it necessary to establish a special guard  
at the palace, in order to be prepared to sup-  
press any riotous demonstration. The news  
from the insurgent district is very meagre;  
but the government reports that the troops  
have killed Pedro Urquiza, a member of the  
Cuban government. Even if this is true it  
will not avail in the least the progress of the  
war. Agramonte was a much more important  
leader, and his death intensified rather than  
weakened the insurrection in Camaguey.

## Great Fire in London.

London has had a fire sensation. The Pan-  
theon, a building used for the storing of  
valuable furniture and other effects, has  
been burned to the ground, along with a  
number of the adjacent houses. In spite of  
the efforts of an excellently organized fire  
department the conflagration could not be  
gotten under by the ordinary means, and the  
Corps of Engineers had finally to be called on  
to isolate the fire. The loss is estimated at  
fifteen million dollars. The building was  
specially constructed for safety, and, in view  
of the immense value of the property, it is  
probable that the greatest vigilance was used  
in guarding against fire. It would seem  
that no ordinary solidity of construction  
will prevent the spread of fire once a cer-  
tain degree of heat is reached. And it is evi-  
dent that the ordinary machinery for ex-  
tinguishing fire cannot be depended on in  
cases of extensive conflagrations. The prompt  
action of the engineers in London confined the  
flames within a small space and saved  
many millions' worth of property. It fur-  
nishes a hint to our own Fire Department  
work following. If the system of isolating a  
fire the moment it threatened to pass beyond  
control were acted on with promptitude in  
our towns we should have fewer extensive  
conflagrations and fewer towns reduced to  
ashes. The increasing disposition of the  
lower orders to acts of violence and riot came  
prominently into notice. The authorities  
were forced to call out the military to pre-  
serve order during the progress of the fire.

## The Winter Season of Music.

Hard times and panic tribulations do not  
seem to have produced any serious effect upon  
the numerous musical entertainments which  
have been presented in this city for the last  
few months, except for a time with one  
Italian opera company, which, however,  
"tided over" successfully the immediate con-  
sequences of the financial scare, and another,  
which subsided after a brief existence. There  
has been no